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Among the contributions which the Western hemisphere has made to this marvelous record of 1908 may be mentioned the signing of a dozen or more treaties of obligatory arbitration by our State Department, and their ratification by the Senate, the opening of the Central American High Court, the first international court of justice yet organized, the meeting of the first Pan-American Scientific Congress, the defeat of the four-battleship program by our Congress, the remission of part of the Boxer indemnity to China, and the joint declaration by the United States and Japan of their identical pacific policies in respect to China and to the waters of the Pacific Ocean.

The last mentioned of these events, coming as a sequence of the professed fear and the reckless talk of war with Japan by certain newspapers and a few public men, may rightly be considered the crowning pacific occurrence of the year. Not only does it insure peace hereafter between Japan and this country, if such a thing were in the least needed, but in its wider bearings it has probably determined for the future the policy of the whole body of the nations in regard to the Far East and the Pacific Ocean. May it not properly be considered the high-water mark of practical peacemaking on the part of governments? The remission of eleven millions of the Boxer indemnity to China is not only a noble example of justice as between nation and nation; it marks the beginning of the end, we think, of the conscienceless injustice which has habitually characterized the dealings of the Western nations with the great empire of the East. For such a shining example of elemental justice as this will affect every chancellery in Europe. It has certainly won the heart of China, as the sending to Washington with a message of thanks of one of the foremost statesmen in the nation bears witness.

It will be objected to what has been above said and implied that all these striking signs of a new spirit, a great new life actually begun among the nations, are more than offset by the rivalry of armaments still going on, and exhausting the world with the ever-increasing burdens of taxes for war preparations. Confessedly, the outlook in this direction is not encouraging. But the defeat of the four-battleship program by our national Congress reveals the strength of the growing opposition to this rivalry. Militarism was never more active and insistent than it is to-day. But it is the activity of a system which is on the defensive and fighting for its life, a system that belongs to the past and is already discredited, a system that must inevitably, under the influence of our advancing civilization, decay and break up in a comparatively short time. Its very desperation reveals its sense of its approaching doom.

The Christmas season through which we have just passed has again lifted high before us the world's hope, a hope enlarged and strengthened by the above cited extraordinary events of the year. On the ground of

these occurrences, as well as under the inspiration of the sublime Christmas ideal which has hitherto led us and kept us loyal, ought we not, can we not make the year before us still more unprecedented than any that has gone?

The President's Message and the Navy.

In his recent and last annual message to Congress the President has devoted much less space to arguing the necessity of increase of the navy than in any of his previous messages. He has confined himself to simply recommending, in a single sentence, the increase proposed by the Navy Department, which is in substance the four-battleship program of last year. But he gives considerable space to urging the reorganization of the whole navy management, in order to increase its efficiency, and makes it perfectly clear that his views on the subject of the navy have not in the least changed.

Only in July last he was reiterating at Newport, in the most emphatic language, before the most notable conference of United States naval officers ever called together, his well known views on the subject. These he declared that he uttered, not to the naval officers, but to "the great bulk of his fellow countrymen," whose opinions on the navy he wished to guide. He is unalterably opposed to "a purely defensive navy," "a mere coast defense navy." He demands one that can "hit hard," that can "hammer the opponent until he quits fighting," that shall be "footloose to search out and destroy the enemy's fleet." He is opposed to our country's assuming an "attitude of meekness" toward other countries; we must be "aggressive" because we have great responsibilities and a great role to play. The Monroe doctrine is an "empty boast" unless backed by an efficient navy. But even if we are to stay at home, mind our own business, and maintain the "right to administer our internal affairs as we think best," we must have "a strong fighting navy." He still keeps alive his suspicion that other nations are cormorants, only awaiting a favorable moment to pounce upon us. He thinks our country, because of immigration, has more points of friction with other governments than any other nation, and hence we must have an "efficient fighting navy," a navy that can "hit." "A first-class fighting navy is the most effective guarantee of peace that this country can have."

Those, therefore, who may think that, because he devotes so little space in his last message to recommending the four-battleship program, the President will cease working for it, in season and out of season, are very much mistaken. He may be expected at any time to send a special message to Congress on the subject, as he did last year. Up to the time when the final vote on the navy bill is taken, Congressmen will be invited to the White House and lectured

on the absolute necessity, for the safety of the country, of adding four huge Dreadnaughts and the necessary number of little monsters to the navy.

Those who believe, therefore, that both the safety and the honor of the country depend chiefly upon other and higher agencies and means than suspicion and fear, and the slugging and hitting and hammering of brute force, must bestir themselves. Let remonstrances against further increase of the navy be sent to Congress from all the cities and communities of the nation, signed by clergymen, by business men, by educators, by members of labor organizations, by women's societies, by everybody who believes that the time has gone by for the continuance of the enormously costly competitive armaments which still burden and disgrace our civilization. Send them, with a brief note, direct to your Congressman, who will be glad to know what his constituents are thinking on this most urgent question of the hour.

The Nobel Peace Prize.

On the tenth of December, the anniversary of the birth of the founder, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Mr. K. P. Arnoldson and Mr. Fredrik Bajer. The recipients of the prize this season are not much known to the American public, although one of them at least is among the best known workers in European peace circles.

Mr. Arnoldson is a prominent Swedish statesman, and was for many years a member of the Second Chamber of the Swedish Parliament. His services to the cause of peace have been largely within his own country. He has been prominent in the work of the Swedish Group of the Interparliamentary Union. He has also taken part in the Peace Conferences held in different parts of Scandinavia, and was one of the men who did most to secure a peaceful outcome of the difficulty created by the separation of Norway from Sweden, an outcome which did great honor to these two progressive Scandinavian countries. Mr. Arnoldson is the author of a very interesting work entitled "Pax Mundi," which was translated into English and has gone through several editions. This work gave, at the time of its publication in 1892, a concise account of the progress and purposes of the peace movement up to that time. In this work he discusses arbitration, neutralization, international law, and the subject of disarmament, and gives considerable attention to many minor phases of the peace movement. Mr. Arnoldson was present at the awarding of the prize and announced that he would devote the money received to organizing an international demonstration in favor of peace. Every adult man and woman would be invited to sign adhesion to a protest against war, expressing also

the desire that all disputes between nations be submitted to arbitration.

Mr. Fredrik Bajer, the other recipient of half the prize, is one of the best known figures in the International Peace Congresses. He was for many years a Deputy in the Danish parliament. In age and in length of service he ranks with Frederic Passy, E. T. Moneta, the Baroness Von Suttner, Dr. W. E. Darby, J. G. Alexander and others. Mr. Bajer was made president of the International Peace Bureau at Berne when it was founded in 1891, and continued to serve in this capacity until about two years ago. He was one of the first men to connect himself with the Interparliamentary Union at its organization at Paris in 1889, and has continued to be one of the leaders of the Danish Group of the Union ever since that time. He has for many years been president of the Danish Society for the Neutralization of Denmark. He is likewise the author of a number of pamphlets treating the different aspects of the arbitration and peace movement. His work has had wide influence not only in Denmark, where he has been the recognized leader, but also in other European countries. All his many friends in different countries congratulate him most warmly on this well deserved recognition of his long continued, faithful and most valuable services.

The Economics of War.

While on a visit to this country recently, Francis W. Hirst, editor of the *London Economist*, and author of the anonymously published work, "The Arbiter in Council," spoke at Harvard University on the "Economics of War." He was received by an appreciative company of students and instructors, among whom were Professor Neilson of the English Department, Professor Schofield, who has been an exchange professor at Berlin, and Professors Bullock and Taussig of the Economics Department. Professor Taussig introduced him as one who really needed no introduction because of the familiarity of the students with his paper.

With characteristic dryness of humor and keenness of intellectual analysis, Mr. Hirst not only instructed, but also entertained his audience for an hour by exposing the fallacies that are current among the apologists for war.

Singularly enough, he found in the writings of Adam Smith plenty of apt and telling phrases to serve as texts for every important point in his address. Adam Smith understood quite as well as the publicist of to-day the false economic basis upon which war and war preparations rest.

Mr. Hirst said, among other things, that the sufferings caused by the Napoleonic Wars were greater during the fifteen years that followed them than during the time in